

inhibitory activity is introduced into said proteins or peptides, said method comprising the steps of

a) gradual chemical modification of a protein or peptide, followed by

b) monitoring the modification reaction with a mild and sensitive method such as nondenaturing electrophoresis or electrospray mass spectrometry and optionally confirming the overall structural integrity;

c) protease treatment;

d) mass spectrometry;

e) assaying biological activity of the modified product and optionally assaying stability of the modified product.

82. (Twice amended) A method for [stimulating of] stimulating stem cell-replication comprising application of a preparation according to claim 72 [and/or a substance obtainable according to any of the method steps according to claim 84].

#### REMARKS

The Examiner indicated that the communication filed on December 14, 1998 in the present application was non-responsive because it failed to correct the improper multiple dependency of claims 77, 82 and 83. Further amendment has been made above to overcome the objection. With respect to the present state of claims 77, 82 and 83, the following is noted.